



FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Tubbs Hill Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project
City of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
FEMA-1781-DR-ID

The City of Coeur d'Alene (City) has applied through the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for funding assistance with a wildfire fuel load reduction project for Tubbs Hill City Park. FEMA is proposing to fund this project through its Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). This project is authorized under a major disaster declared by the President on July 31, 2008, for flooding that occurred from May 15 to June 9, 2008 (FEMA-1781-DR-ID). The HMGP is authorized under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, for purposes of reducing risks to life and property from natural and manmade disasters. The Tubbs Hill hazardous fuel reduction project will reduce risks from wildfires to people and property near the 120-acre natural area located next to downtown Coeur d'Alene.

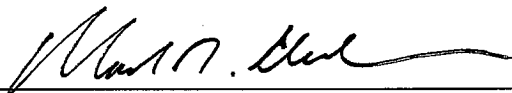
For the project the City will remove excessive vegetation through hand thinning, pruning, limbing, sawing, or brush cutting by private contractors on approximately 27.45 acres in selected sections of the west side of Tubbs Hill City Park. The project will reduce the ground fuels within 30' of major trails and the fire road to enhance their use as a fire break. The focus of clearing would be to remove young trees and all shrubbery, leaving healthy Ponderosa Pine trees. The City will not remove big trees unless they pose a hazard, such as having the potential to fall on the trails. They will also leave trees if they are a bird nesting tree. A percentage of the shrubbery outside of the 30' buffer will also be removed. Where the main trail follows the shoreline, 30' above the trail and all the way to the water will be cleared.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and FEMA's implementing regulations, FEMA prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate potential environmental impacts resulting from the alternatives presented in the EA and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Alternatives evaluated in the EA include: 1) no action, and 2) remove excessive vegetation on approximately 27.45 acres in selected sections of the west side of Tubbs Hill (Proposed Action). The draft EA was submitted for public review and comment from May 19 to June 19, 2011, no substantive comments were received. The Proposed Action is the preferred alternative because the No Action alternative would not address the purpose and need stated in the EA and there were no other practical alternatives identified. Thus, the proposed action is selected.

FINDINGS

Based upon the grant application, attached Final EA, and Attachment A; and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10 for environmental consideration, including Executive Orders (EOs) addressing floodplains (EO 11988), wetlands (EO 11990), and environmental justice (EO 12898), FEMA determined the proposed project will not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.8) and the project, as described in the grant application and attached Final EA, may proceed.

APPROVAL



Mark G. Eberlein
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region 10

6-22-11

Date

Attachment A:

PERMITTING, PROJECT CONDITIONS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The City of Coeur d'Alene is required to obtain and comply with all local, state, and federal permits and approvals prior to implementing the Proposed Action Alternative. Activities within the Proposed Action Alternative project areas shall be consistent with the scope of work in the project grant application.

The following mitigation measures are required as conditions of FEMA funding:

1. The applicant is responsible for selecting, implementing, monitoring, and maintaining appropriate BMPs to provide habitat protection.
2. To ensure migratory birds are protected, no vegetation shall be cut or removed between April 1 and August 1.
3. All nesting trees within the action area shall be flagged prior to project implementation and shall be left alone during fuel reduction activities.
4. In the event that historically or archaeologically significant materials or sites (or evidence thereof) are discovered during the implementation of the project, the project shall be halted and all reasonable measures taken to avoid or minimize harm to property until such time as FEMA, in consultation with the SHPO, determines appropriate measures have been taken to ensure that the project is in compliance with the NHPA.
5. Any change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other laws and Executive Orders.